

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:) Attorney Docket No. 911568635006
Jan Andersson)
Application No.: 09/381,899)
Filed: December 16, 1999)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR AUTOMATIC DATA)
ACQUISITION OF FORMS)
Examiner: Bashore, William L.)
Art Unit: 2176)
Confirmation No.: 4564)

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REMARKS

New claims 41-49 have been added to the application and claims 1 and 18 have been cancelled so that the application now contains claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32 and 41-49. Claims 41, 45 and 49 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 13-14, 15(?), 18-19, 21-22, 25-27, 30 and 31 stand rejected under section 103 based on Pizano et al. No. 5,293,429 ("Pizano"), Karnin et al. No. 5,434,933 ("Karnin") and Suzuki et al. No. 4,933,979 ("Suzuki"). This rejection is respectfully traversed as it applies to the new independent claims 41, 45 and 49 and all claims depending from the independent claims.

The Examiner has pointed out in paragraph 8 of the Office Action that applicant "appears to be contrasting said combination with applicant's invention as described in the disclosure instead of arguing the instant claim limitations." It is applicant's intention to bring those limitations from the specification into the claims and to rely on those limitations in arguments to be made below, as well as arguments made in previously submitted responses.

First, applicant wishes to restate all previous arguments made, by reference, in view of the amendments to the independent claims made here. In addition, the Pizano and Suzuki references both relate to systems which use predefined forms. That is, the documents which are being handled by the systems in both Pizano and Suzuki are documents which have already been specially designed and previously inputted so that the computer systems being used recognize the document formats when they are inputted into the system. Karnin also requires a predefined stored template.

In comparison to this cited art, claims 41 includes the limitation of "presenting a plurality of documents to said computer system, said plurality of documents having a variety of formats not predefined for said computer system containing data, content and locations not predefined for said computer system." The claim then includes the limitations of automatically generating a map, automatically searching stored maps, comparing a new map with stored maps and "either automatically storing document maps of presented documents. . .or automatically identifying presented documents. . .(where) said automatically storing step. . .(occurs) as each document map fails to be identified according to predetermined limits for agreement."

Similarly, new claim 45 recites the limitations: "a computer system having adaptive recognition capability. . .(for handling data) from a plurality of received documents having a variety of formats not predefined for said computer system and containing data content and locations not predefined for said computer system and wherein. . .said computer system has structure to automatically generate. . .to automatically search. . .to automatically compare. . .either to indicate recognition. . .or to indicate lack of recognition. . .and when there is a lack of recognition, said computer system has structure to automatically store such

unrecognized maps as each of said unrecognized map fails to be identified according to predetermined limits for agreement."

New claim 49 includes the limitations of "causing said computer system to receive a plurality of documents unknown to said computer system, said plurality of documents having a variety of formats including text, lines, pictorial images and color and having data content in a variety of locations, said formats and said locations not predefined for said computer system. . .causing said computer system either to identify each of said document maps generated or to store those generated document maps not identified as each of such generated document maps fails to be identified. . ."

As mentioned above, it has been applicant's intent to add limitations to the independent claims to clearly distinguish those claims from the cited art. In that regard, the presentation or receipt of documents which have not been predefined for the computer system, distinguishes the present claims from the cited art; and independently, the adaptive learning capability of the present invention embodied in the limitations that those documents which are not identified are stored in the system for use in identifying later presented documents as each of the presented documents are determined to be unrecognized also distinguishes the present claims from the cited art.

These limitations are not taught nor suggested in any combination of the cited art.

There is support in the disclosure for these limitations where it is stated that, the present invention relates to documents "not known in advance" (paragraph 0003), that the invention deals with "~~a form unknown to the system~~" and "~~stores the map in real time in a form database~~ for recognition at the next opportunity for identification" (paragraph 0009), that there is "no prior knowledge of the form's appearance or where on the form information is to be found" (paragraph

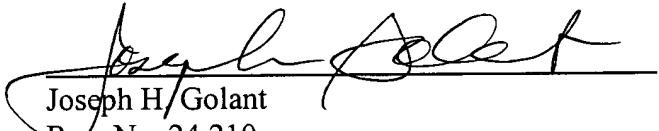
0011), that "templates of forms do not have to be defined in advance, but instead, the forms are registered as they are submitted in real time" (paragraph 0011), that the system "learns adaptively and registers the design of the form" (paragraph 0016) and that the system is "self-learning" (paragraph 0035).

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the new claims and also reconsider the dependent claims and find them all allowable.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his instruction regarding the failure of the earlier claims to have limitations that are set forth in the disclosure. Should the Examiner have any other suggestions regarding any of the present claims, he is invited to present those to applicant at Examiner's convenience.

Dated: April 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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